

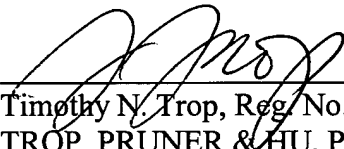
REMARKS

The pending claims were rejected under the patent to Gardner. It has a filing date of April 21, 1998. However, the effective filing date of the present application, by virtue of its parent application, is December 18, 1997. Since this is a divisional of that application, this application has an earlier effective filing date than the cited reference.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 20, 2005



Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
(713) 468-8880 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]